



Moab Division of Fire Management

Price Field Office, Moab Field Office, Monticello Field Office

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BLM continues fuel mitigation efforts in Grand and San Juan Counties

Starting in mid-November, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) crews will continue hazardous fuel removal and prescribed fire operations in several project areas throughout the Moab and Monticello Field Offices. The project areas to be treated include; the Colorado River Corridor along Hwy 128, Ray Mesa near Old La Sal, Peter's Canyon along Hwy 191 and Eastland around the community of Eastland.

The next phase of the Colorado River Corridor Tamarisk Project will include pile burning on several portions of the south river bank. Previously, crews cut and piled fuel breaks and removed invasive tamarisk. Now that conditions for burning are more ideal, the piles between the Colorado Bridge and Hittle Campground will be burned. The treatment areas are scattered throughout 12 locations and total approximately 55 acres.

Previous fuels reduction actions at Ray Mesa have included brush hog and hand cutting treatments. The next part of this project will include pile burning on approximately 40 acres. Additionally, 200 acres will be treated through "under-burning," which is a low impact prescribed fire technique used to eliminate surface litter on woodland and forest floors.

The Peter's Canyon project will also receive additional treatments this winter and fall. Approximately 20 acres have been targeted for pile burning in areas crews have already cut by hand. Additional hand cutting, piling and pile burning will occur throughout the project area.

Finally, approximately 240 acres of hand piles on the Eastland Project will be burned. Contractors completed the work of thinning and piling last spring. As weather conditions become favorable, BLM crews will be entering the project area to burn the piles.

All of the BLM projects were designed to reduce the impact of wildfire on the nearby communities and recreation areas, improve winter range and woodland health and eliminate invasive species. As weather conditions permit, BLM crews will be conducting prescribed fire operations throughout the fall and winter. The public is encouraged to take caution and heed warning signs in the project areas. Smoke impacts from burning along highways 128 and 191 may result in decreased visibility for short durations.

For further information, please call Brian Keating at 435-259-2194 or go to website www.utahfireinfo.gov.